President.—For the purpose of definite information on the point, cannot accounts be kept regarding the sale of toddy?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—For next year rules have already been framed and published. For the year after the next, I shall consider whether toddy shop-keepers also should be made to maintain accounts as in the case of arrack shop-keepers.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Do not licensees get the permission from the Superintendent when they import foreign liquor?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They send applications for permission to import. There will be nothing in them to show what quantity they are going to import. It will be stated in them that they are going to import a certain number of bottles, a certain number of casks, etc. We do not know the capacity of the casks. That is why I was not able to give the quantity exactly.

President.—There must be some uniformity in the capacity of casks.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I shall look into the matter in future.

117. Mr. K. T. Mathew.— Will the Government be pleased to inform—

(a) whether the Government is aware that 2 foreign liquor shops are situated in the heart of Kunnamkulam Town;

(b) the distance between the two shops; and

(c) the reason for locating the two shops so very closely;

(d) whether the Government has any objection in closing both these shops in view of the various petitions and representations submitted to the Government for the removal of all the liquor shops from within Kunnamkulam Town limits?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) The Government are aware that there are two liquor shops in the Kunnamkulam bazaar.

(b) About 100 yards.

(c) The licensees can locate the shops anywhere in Kunnamkulam, according to the convenience of their trade.

(d) The Government do not consider that there are adequate grounds for closing these shops.

The Member is also referred to the answer given to question 441 of the last legislative session.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the adequate grounds that the Government deems necessary for the closing of these shops?

President.—What are the circumstances and the probabilities of the case it is impossible to answer.

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the adequate grounds the Government wants?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to that I want notice.

President.—Some people want these shops. What are we to do? We must locate shops near them. We have to take these things to the door as we do in the case of education. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We locate shops at places where they are easily accessible.

President.—What will be the result, if no shops are allowed to be opened in the State?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If there are no shops, people will manufacture and use illicit liquor.

President.—Suppose we use a detective force to prevent the illicit manufacture, what will be the result?

Mr. V. B Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Detection and manufacture and drinking of illicit liquor will be going on side by side.

President.—The question is whether it is a considerable difficulty.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is very difficult.

President.—There are certain things which could not be got rid of. For example, I do not chew tobacco. My friends may want those necessities. Unless they make up their minds that they will not use tobacco at all, they will not be able to put a stop to the practice. How far the anti-drink campaign has succeeded in America, we do not know. The people there wanted to introduce Prohibition. Some think it is successful.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I will give you the information that you require.

118. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention:—

(a) whether any petition or representation has been received from the ladies of Kunnamkulam for removing all liquor shops from within Kunnamkulam Town limits; and if so,

(b) how many have been received within the last 18 months;

(c) when and from whom they were received;

(d) how many petitions and representations were received from the people of Kunnamkulam, including ladies, within the last 18 months, for removing all liquor shops from within the town limits;

(e) when and from whom they were received?

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